To: The University Senate  
From: David A. Sanders  
Subject: Effective Student Evaluations  
Disposition: University Senate for Approval  

WHEREAS: Student evaluations were pioneered at Purdue University in the mid-1920s and  

WHEREAS: The sole ultimate legitimate purpose for student evaluations is to improve educational outcomes and  

WHEREAS: In the current end-of-term online evaluation system at Purdue University there is poor and unrepresentative response from students and no educational benefit to the students who are providing the evaluations and  

WHEREAS: The Purdue University Student Senate unanimously endorsed “mandatory mid-term evaluations” and  

WHEREAS: Overall numerical assessments of instructors and courses provide no guidance in improving learning outcomes and  

WHEREAS: Education is a collaboration between instructors and students
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year electronic student evaluations will be conducted mid-term (e.g., week 7 in a 15-week course) rather than at the end of courses. Instructors will still have the option of requesting student evaluations at the end of the course; questions measuring whether course objectives have been achieved should be included.

The anonymity of the students will be maintained.

The evaluations will be focused on specific items of learning and teaching rather than overall assessments of the course or instructor.

Student evaluations will be mandatory as they are considered an important component of learning.

The evaluations will include assessments of the fulfillment by both student and instructor of their obligations.

Questions concerning the instructors will require only written responses.

Questions for the students will include evaluations of whether it is a required course, of whether the students attend class and complete assigned tasks, of whether they are employing course materials, of the number of hours outside of class spent on course activities, of expected grades, etc.

Questions about the instructors will include evaluations of regularity and promptness of classroom/laboratory instruction, of the effectiveness of the use of class time, of the utility of assignments, of the quality of learning assessment, of the success in the cultivation of inquiry skills and intellectual judgment, of the respect displayed by the instructor for the diversity among the students, and of the availability and willingness of the instructor to provide group and individual assistance, etc.

Instructors will be able to include additional questions of their own construction or from a database maintained by the Purdue Center for Instructional Excellence or its successor administrative units.

The full results of the student evaluations will be provided immediately after the collection period and solely to the instructor(s) of the courses being evaluated.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Sanders